(5) The available lands near the Illichira and the Naluchira in the Purakkad *pakuthi*, Ambalapuzha taluk.

(6) The available lands in Vechur *kari* in the Vaikam taluk and the *kayal porambokes* in the Shertallai taluk.

(7) The lands proposed to be disafforested from the Valiakavu and Alapara Reserves.

He said that the Co-operative Societies of his community had applied for the registry of the lands under item No. 4 above. The Member also prayed that, whenever high officers went on tour to Chengannur, Aranmula, Alwaye and other places, they might be instructed to make enquiries about the welfare of the depressed classes.

12 Grievances of the Cheramar Community as regards securing puduval lands.

Mr. Paradi Abraham Isaac (Member, Nominated), in dealing with the grievances of the depressed classes as regards the registry of *puduval* lands, said that the economic condition of the depressed classes was very deplorable. The major portion of them were tenants at will liable to eviction from their holdings at the whim and caprice of their landlords. In his view, the depressed classes could make progress in society only if they were given lands of their own. Although the Government had allowed the registry of three acres of land to each family of the depressed classes, there was much difficulty in getting such lands registered. The Proverthicars were generally unsympathetic towards them and they only cared to favour well-to-do persons. Whenever good lands were applied for by the depressed classes, the Proverthicars raised all sorts of objections, with the result that the depressed classes were able to get only uncultivable lands, and even those only with much difficulty. The Tahsildars were unable to mend matters, as they were, in most cases, guided by the reports of the Proverthicars. Whenever members of the depressed classes occupied Government lands and effected improvements thereon, they were evicted from those places and asked to select lands at the rate of three acres for each family from the lands car-marked for them. The Member said that it would be very hard if the people of one particular locality were asked to shift to another. He also pointed out that in some taluks such as Tovala, Agastisvaram, Shencottah, Karunagapalli, Kartikapalli, Ambalapuzha, Shertallai, Vaikam, and Parur, the only lands available for registry were tank and backwater *porambokes* which the Government had ordered to be disposed of in auction in view of their great value. Consequently, the members of the depressed classes were unable to get concessional registries in those taluks.

Another hardship experienced by the members of the depressed classes was that there was an impression on the part of the Revenue subordinates that, as soon as a person got a concessional grant of three acres of land or ten cents on the sea coast, he became altogether ineligible for getting any more *puduval* lands in the State. He said that the depressed classes should be given other *puduval* lands also if they were prepared to pay *tharavila* and other dues and that this right should not be denied to them on the ground that they were eligible for registry of lands on concessional terms subject to an area limit. Orders should be issued disabusing the minds of the officers of this wrong impression. The Member next said that large blocks of land were unnecessarily set apart as grazing reserves ; but whenever rich people effected improvements thereon, the improved portions were being registered in their names. He also stated that large areas of *kanippattu* lands were available for assignment, but that well-to-do persons often purchased the lands from the Kanikars and effected improvements thereon and thereby prevented the depressed classes from applying for such lands.

Lastly, he said that most of the wet lands in the State had become the property of the advanced communities and the depressed classes who worked for them had to give the lion's share of the produce to their landlords. In view to better their condition and provide wet lands for them, the Member prayed that the wet lands disafforested from the reserved forests of the State might be registered in the names of Co-operative Societies for the depressed classes and that they might be given house-sites also. The Member stated that the depressed classes would be willing to pay *tharavila* for such lands in seven yearly instalments.

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In conclusion, he said that he understood that a special officer was to be appointed to look after the welfare of the depressed classes. He suggested that the present Land Revenue Commissioner be appointed as such officer without prejudice to his other duties.

13. Difficulties experienced by Pulayas and other depressed classes after the concessional registry of puduval lands in their names.

Mr. Aiyan Kali (Member, Nominated), in thanking the Government for the concessions granted to the members of the depressed classes in the matter of registry of *puduval* lands, referred to some of the difficulties the people were encountering in securing lands on concessional terms. It was at the sacrifice of revenue that Government had ordered the registry of lands to the depressed classes; but the poor assignees of those lands were put to the necessity of going to Revenue Officers and Civil Courts to get possession of the lands registered. The Member quoted an instance where three Pulayas in whose names an extent of 2½ acres of land in the Vilappil *pakuthi*, Neyyattinkara taluk, was registered on concessional terms in the year 1094 were fighting in the Division Cutcherry, Trivandrum, the Land Revenue Commissioner's Office and the Munsiff's Court in order to get possession of those lands. But, although the case was pending in the last mentioned court, the registry-holders were paying tax for the past several years, while the occupants continued to be in possession. There were very many instances of the kind in the same *pakuthi*. This, the Member said, was very hard and his people were incurring loss on that account. To alleviate this distress, he prayed for the following relief measures:—

(1) In cases where the concessional registry-holders had to sue in Civil Courts to get possession of the lands assigned to them, the court fees in respect of such suits should be remitted.

(2) If the above prayer could not be granted, their suits should be entertained free of court fees and the necessary amount of fees should be recovered from the opposite party.

(3) The members of his community should be exempted from affixing court fee stamps to their land applications.

He also brought to the notice of Government that the places ear-marked for assignment to the depressed classes had absolutely no water convenience. He therefore prayed that good and cultivable lands might be assigned to them.

President's reply.—Mr. Aiyan Kali has referred to the difficulty experienced by his community in getting lands registered and in securing possession of them after the orders of registry have been passed. As regards the assignment of *puduvals* to members of the depressed classes, Government will view the question sympathetically, and wherever such members have settled down on unobjectionable *porambokes*, those lands will be assigned to them. As regards the difficulties to which the members of these classes are subjected after registry, the matter will be enquired into and all that is feasible will be done. In regard to the subdivision of lands ear-marked for the depressed classes, it is stated that the subdivision of some of the lands is over, while, in respect of others, the work is now making some progress.

Mr. Aiyan Kali pointed out that there was no water in most of the lands earmarked for the depressed classes, that, therefore, they settled down in places where they could get water, and that in some of the latter places they were being molested by others. These matters will be looked into in due course by the Special Officer proposed to be appointed for watching the interests of the depressed classes.

Mr. Abraham Issac observed that the members of his community would be prepared to pay *tharavila* for good lands in seven yearly instalments, in case such lands could be assigned to them. This matter will also be looked into.

The other points mentioned in the representations of the Members are noted for consideration.

14. Need for an accurate resurvey of the Shencottah taluk.

Mr. S. A. Hariharakrishna Aiyar (Member, Shencotta taluk) began by saying that the necessity for an accurate resurvey of the Shencottah taluk was very

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